

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY
WARRANT OF THE EGREMONT SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 30, 2013

| ARTICLE NAME | A VOTE IN FAVOR MEANS: | A VOTE OPPOSED MEANS: | FINANCE COMMITTEE DELIBERATION |
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| 1. Interim Acting Police Chief | Authorization for \$42,656.00 of additional taxation to replenish the Acting Police Chief Account. The Town has spent \$15,000.00 to date. The Selectman fore see spending the new amount to pay the Acting Chief through the end of the FY 2014, with increased hours to 40 per week starting in January 2014 and continuing through June 30 2014. These funds are in addition to the Chief salary budgeted for FY 2014. | The Town would have no new or additional funds to pay for a part-time Interim Acting Police Chief between now and December 31, 2013 at 20 hours per week, nor for services from January 1, 2014 to June 30, 2014, the end of the fiscal year at 40 hours per week. This would mean the position of Interim Acting Police Chief would be unfunded, and may mean ending the position. | The Finance Committee had a split view. Two of six recommend a vote for Article 1 in order to allow the Selectboard to retain the Interim Police Chief. Four of six make no recommendation. |
| 2. Property and Casualty Insurance | Raising \$5,000.00 from additional taxes for property and casualty insurance. The increase from the insurance company is due to a revised cost to the Town based on recent (2006 and 2009) large claims and for new buildings (Police Station) added to the policy. | Potential loss of insurance coverage creating a significant financial exposure for the Town and the need to repeat the request for the funds again. | The Finance Committee unanimously recommends approval: 6 in favor, 0 opposed. |
| 3. Police Department Budget | Additional taxes for a 7.6% increase (+\$22,687) to the Police Budget for FY 2014. This budget was 'level funded' at the Annual Town Meeting in May of 2013. The increases are due to 2% raises to the Secretary (+\$334) and Chief (+\$1,257) salaries, and \$21,096.00 to pay Officers at the new pay rate based on the new Collective Bargaining Agreement. | Salary increases for the Chief and the Secretary if mandatory, would have to come from other areas of the Police Budget (i.e., Expenses). A no vote may complicate the application of the new Collective Bargaining Agreement, requiring a new effort at a new contract, or a decrease in the hours of policing in Egremont, which are now scheduled 24/7. | The Finance Committee had a split view. Two of six recommend a vote for Article 3. Four of six make no recommendation. |
| 4. Highway Personnel, Member C Account | The Selectboard is proposing \$1,020.00 of additional taxes to correct an arithmetical error in calculating the wages because of estimates made early in the budget process. Total New (Tax) Revenue for Articles 1, 2, 3, & 4: \$ 71,363.00 | Failure to pass would unfairly short town employees of deserved wages. | The Finance Committee unanimously recommends approval: 6 in favor, 0 opposed. |

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| 5. Tax Abatement Work-Off for Veterans | Veterans could work for the Town in some capacity in exchange for an in kind reduction in their tax bill instead of getting paid. Egremont has long had a similar program for Senior Citizens. This Article would give Veterans the same option. | Veterans could not lower their tax bill by working for the Town. | The Finance Committee unanimously recommends approval: 6 in favor, 0 opposed. |
| 6. Naming of New Police Facility | Would name the new Town building (Police Station) in honor of "Stephen Michael Wells" who was an Egremont resident killed in action in Iraq. | The building would not be named. | This is a Non-Financial Article: the Finance Committee makes no recommendation. |
| 7. Land Donation | At no cost to the Town, Egremont will acquire about 25 acres of land which would help protect the water supply source on Mount Washington Road. The Nature Conservancy is helping to facilitate the transaction by: (1) buying the property, (2) cleaning it up (removing some old buildings), and (3) providing a grant of \$50,000 to the Town. The Town will buy the property from the Nature Conservancy for \$100,000 using their grant of \$50,000, and a \$50,000 short term loan (also from the Nature Conservancy). Egremont will request (and likely receive) a \$50,000 reimbursement grant from the Commonwealth to repay the short term loan from the Nature Conservancy. Egremont will be "made whole." A complicated procedure that preserves our water source. The Town would be able to determine the types of 'natural uses' of the land (hunting, fishing, hiking, etc.). The only true financial impact is a minor loss of property tax revenue, and the normal liability of any Town park. | The Town turns down an essentially no-cost land acquisition that protects water resources, and provides an area for limited types of recreation. | The Finance Committee unanimously recommends approval: 6 in favor, 0 opposed. |